years ago, by a consultancy agency, had indicated diversion of kerosene at different points, particularly through wholesalers for the purpose of adulteration and sale in black market, etc. on account of high price diffeential between Kerosene and Diesel. Central Government has taken a number of steps to check diversion and adulteration, and as retail distribution where mostly diversion takes place, is the responsibility of State Government, they have also been advised to retionlise the system of distribution and to plug loopholes to prevent diversion and adulteration. The decision about adjustment and revision of prices of different petroleum products is yet to be taken.

Coal-Bed Methane Potential in the Country

1979. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the coal-bed methane potential in the country;

(b) the likely reduction in demand of oil if the same can be explored and used;

(c) the exploration jobs carried out at present by ONGC;

(d) the location of the sites and status of exploration in these areas; and

(e) the further action plan for exploration of coal-bed methane in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The current estimates of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the country have been tentatively placed at about 1000 billion cubic metres.

(b) Reduction in oil demand will depend upon the extent of substitution of petroleum products by the CBM as and when produced commercially.

(c) ONGC has acquired 80 GLK of 2D seismic data and drilled 2 R&D wells for CBM exploration in Durgapur depression of Raniganj basin, West Bengal. Recently another location in Parbatpur block of Jharia Coal field has been taken up for drilling.

(d) and (e) The following coalfield areas have been identified for exploration of CBM:—

1.	Raniganj
2.	Jharia
3.	East Bokaro
4.	West Bokaro
5.	Sohagpur
6.	Satpura Basin
7.	North Karampur

Government has recently approved a new policy for exploration and exploitation of CBM, which provides for global competitive bidding for granting licences for exploration and exploitation of CBM, a fiscal and contractual framework for this purpose and specific incentives to investors.

Acute Shortage of LPG Cylinders

1980. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the areas where shortage has been reported;

(c) the reasons for the current shortage; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to augment the supply of LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The demand of LPG consumers registered with Public Sector Oil Companies is met almost in full. However, whenever LPG backlogs develop due to law and order problems, Industrial Relation problems, floods or any disruption in availability due to emergency shutdowns at any of the production sources etc. Oil Companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets through maximising LPG imports and by operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sundays and holidays to clear the LPG backlogs.

Presently, marginal LPG backlogs are being reported by PSU Oil Companies in the State of Andhra Pradesh, which had developed due to Industrial Relation problem at Vizag Bottling plant. Oil Companies have been advised to step up the supplies to affected markets for expeditious liquidation of the backlog.

Demand and Supply Position of Naphtha

1981. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the current domestic demand supply position of naphtha in the country;

(b) the projected demand-supply position for naphtha in the country for the next five years; and

(c) the action plan being pursued to augment naphtha supply to meet increase in demand from the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) The estimated supply-demand balance of naphtha/NGL during the current year (1997-98) is as follows:—

Production	: 7.357 MMT
Demand	: 7.180 MMT
Surplus	: 0.177 MMT

The above demand estimate does not include direct imports expected to be made by the private parties.

(c) The estimated supply-demand of naphtha/NGL for the next five years, (based on production/demand as per IX Plan Sub-Group on Refining and Demand projections), is as follows:—

YEAR	SURPLUS
1998-99	0.68 MMT
1999-00	1.01 MMT
2000-01	2.99 MMT
2001-02	5.06 MMT
2002-03	5.80 MMT

The above figures do not include naphtha requirement of liquid fuel based power plants. Based on current indications power plants alone would require about 15 MMTs of naphtha. This would mean a huge deficit of naphtha with the commissioning of power plants by 1999-2000.

Considerable increase in demand for naphtha for fertilizer/petrochemical plants is also indicated.

(c) The shortfall in domestic availability of naphtha/NGL would be met through imports.

Collection of CESS by Oil Industry Development Board

1982. SHRI S. RAMCHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the purposes for setting up of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) and cess collected thereunder;

(b) how much money has since been collected by OIDB; and

(c) how much money out of the total collection under OIDB has been actually utilised for the purposes under (a) above, in details?